ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTIETH ANNUAL SESSION,

.....OF THE.....

ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Spring Creek Church, Butler Co., Ala.,

October 6th, 7th and 8th, 1899.

OFFICERS:

Hon. J. C. Fonville, Moderator,	Mt. Carmel, Ala.
Eld. C. C. Lloyd, Clerk,	Greenville, Ala.
Wm. P. McQueen, Treasurer,	Sandy Ridge, Ala.

The next session will be held with Sandy Ridge Church, Lowndes County, Alabama, beginning Friday before the second Sunday in Oct., 1900.

Introductory sermon by Eld. T. S. Sanford, Alternate, Elder T. E. Morgan; Missionary sermon by Eld. T. T. Dobbs, Alternate, Eld. S. W. Andress

Advocate Job Print, Greenville, Ala.,—'99.

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..MINUTES..

SPRING CREEK CHURCH,
FRIDAY, OCT. 6TH, 1899.

The messengers from the churches composing the Alabama Baptist Association met with Spring Creek church, Butler county, Alabama.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Eld. T. T. Dobbs. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder T. E. Morgan.

The letters from the churches were read and names of messengers enrolled as follows, viz:—

First District.

Rutledge—W C Avant.

Siloam—John Killough, *Thos. Swanner, G T McNeal

Damascus—W J Andress, Clopton Roach, Joshua Barrett, *Wm. Smith.

Chapel Hill—W H Mullins, *J M Cook, *W H Lee, S T Kelly, G H Searcy.

Pigeon Creek—J E Helms, J C Routon, *G W Davis.

Spring Hill—Not represented.

Second District.

Union—J G Wells, E F Morgan, W C Killough.

Spring Creek—H S Graydon, S S Loe, John Hook.

Panola—S B Wilson, J E Bowen, W H Sharp.

New Ebenezer—B W Addison, Richard Davidson, J D Massey.

Third District.

Bradleyton—S J Thrower, *John Jordan, S W Thrower, *Wm. Warrick.

Mountain Hill—J M Stephens, *J W Brown, J S Stevens

Hickory Grove—G S Morrison, *R H Cross, J C Fonville, W P McQueen.

Sandy Ridge—E M Andress, F E May, Montgomery Rowe

Fourth District.

Steep Creek—J M Dickinson, *W R Reef, *M T Williams

Good Hope—Henry P Watts, *Willie Peagler.

Indian Creek—*F M Rodgers, G T Harrison, E L Harrison, J F Rodgers.

Antioch—Geo. P Hawkins, N F Perry, Geo. H Martin.

Gravel Hill—J A Rhodes, *W F Herndon, *J M Sweat.

Absentees marked thus *

...Organization...

Hon. J. C. Fonville, Moderator, Eld. C. C. Lloyd Clerk, and William P. McQueen, Treasurer.

The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read by the Clerk.

Call for Correspondence.

Rev. A. J. Preston, of State Board, Rev. T. J. Porter, of Montgomery Association, and Rev. S. J. Williamson, of Zion Association were cordially received and invited to seats with us.

Adjourned for dinner. Benediction by Bro. J G Thomas

Committees to Report at Present Session.

On Nominations—C H Morgan, Henry P Watts.

On Documents and State of Religion—T E Morgan, W H Dean, J M Stephens.

On Finance—E J Helms, E M Andress, Walter Graydon

On Auditing—S. J. Thrower, J G Wells.

On Time and Place—J C Routen, H P Watts.

On Bible Cause and Religious Literature—W H Cheatham, W H Dean, Jno. A Rhodes.

On Schools and Colleges—W C Avant, J C Fonville, J F Barrett.

On Temperance—C C Lloyd, J B Wilson, R H Cross.

On Sunday Schools—J M Dickinson, C H Morgan, E L Harrison.

On Obituaries—J C Fonville, Wm. P McQueen.

On Orphans Home—Joseph Kierce, J G Thomas, R T Poole.

Absentees marked thus *

Friday--Evening Session.

2 p. m.—Prayer by Bro. Andress. Bro. T. T. Dobbs read report on State and Home Missions—laid over for to-morrow.

The report on Bible cause and religious literature was read by Bro. W H Dean. After discussion by brethren Cheatham, Porter, Andress, Preston, Avant, Williamson and others —adopted.

The Moderator, Bro. J. C. Fonville, read report on obituaries—adopted.

Moved a committee be appointed to confer with sister J. H. Staggers in reference to the time, place, etc., of the burial of Bro. J. H. Staggers who died today. Bro. W P McQueen, E L Harrison, J A Thornton and Rev. W. H. Cheatham composed thiscommittee.

Report of Committee on Religious Exercises was read

by the chairman and adopted.

Elder W H Dean, chairman, read report on hospitality and it was adopted.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 8:30 a. m. Benediction by Bro. W H Dean.

Saturday--Morning Session.

8:30 a. m.—Prayer by Elder S. J. Williamson. Brethren J. E. Bishop, C. A. Gunn and V. H. Bell, of Montgomery Association were received and invited to seats with us.

Moved by Bro. McQueen that a volunteer committee from the various churches of this Association attend the burial of Bro. J. H. Staggers at 11 a. m., today—adopted.

Bro. T. E. Morgan read report on documents and state of religion—adopted.

The report on Sunday schools was read by Bro. J. M. Dickinson—held over until tomorrow for discussion.

Report on temperance was read by Elder C. C. Lloyd —spoken to by brethren Cheatham, Bishop, Williamson, Lloyd, McQueen, Morgan, Morris, Kelly, Avant, Fonville, Andress and Mullens, and adopted.

Rev. G. S. Anderson, of the "Institute Board" was cordially received and invited to seats with us.

The Clerk read the report on State, Home and Foreign Missions—after remarks by Avant, Bishop, Morgan, Preston and others—adopted.

Adjourned for dinner. Benediction by Bro. G S Anderson.

Saturday--Evening Session.

2 p. m.—Prayer by Bro. J. E. Bishop. Report on general missions was adopted.

Pledges for General Missions.

Rutledge	$5.00	Hickory Grove	$10.00
Chapel Hill	5.00	Sanday Ridge	5.00
Pigeon Creek	5.00	Steep Creek(J. M. D.)	2.50
Union	5.00	Good Hope	1.00
Spring Creek	3.00	Antioch	5.00
Panola	3.00	Gravel Hill	2.50
New Ebenezer	2.00 (J. D. M.)	Richard Davidson	1.00

The report on Orphans Home was read and after remarks by Preston, Morgan, Avant and others was adopted.

Collection for Orphans Home, $8.15.

The Moderator read the report on schools and colleges. Discussed by Avant, Cheatham, Bishop, Preston, Fonville, Anderson and others—adopted.

Adjourned to meet at 9 a. m., to-morrow. Benediction by Bro. T. J. Porter.

Sunday--Morning Session.

9 a. m.—Prayer by Bro. Lloyd.

Bro. Dickinson read Sunday school report. Spoken to by brethren Anderson, Preston, Cheatham, Rhodes, Morgan and Avant, and adopted.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention, S. J. Thrower, alternate, Elder T. T. Dobbs.

Bro. Lloyd read his report as Colporter and Evangelist. Received, and moved he be compensated for service.

Moved the old Executive Board be continued as last year. Also the District Sunday school Superintendents.

Brethren S. J. Thrower, H. P. Watts and Clopton Roach were appointed a committee in behalf of aged and indigent ministers.

Bro. G. S. Anderson presented the cause of the "Institute Board."

Missionary sermon by Bro. G. S. Anderson at 11 a. m.

Delegates to State Convention—Geo. S. Morrison, T E Morgan, W C Avant, T T Dobbs, T S Sanford, W H Dean, C C Lloyd, H P Watts, L D Barfield, J G Thomas, I F Helms, J W Holloway, J M Dickinson, E L Harrison, Jno. A Rhodes, I F Helms, Clopton Roach, J C Fonville, S J Thrower.

Cash collection for Bro. J E Reeves.....$16.75.

Cash collection, half for "Institute Board" and half for missions.....$8.52.

Clerk was directed to correct Finance report. Clerk to be paid $10.00 for his services.

Resolved, that the sincere thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to the brethren, sisters and friends of Spring Creek for their generous hospitality.

Adjourned to meet next year with Sandy Ridge. The parting hand was given. Hymn, "Blest Be the Tie."

Benediction by the Moderator.

J. C. FONVILLE,
Moderator.

C. C. LLOYD,
Clerk.

Committees to report Next Session.

State, Home and Foreign Missions—W C Avant, Dr. Rushton, S T Kelly, J H Killough.

Schools and Colleges—T T Dobbs, J W Holloway and Jno A Rhodes.

Bible Cause and Religious Literature—J C Fonville, C H Morgan, I F Helms, E L Harrison.

Temperance—W H Cheatham, E. M. Andress, H P Watts, J C Routen.

Obituaries—T E Morgan, R T Poole, J B Wilson, Ed. Helms.

Sunday Schools—J M Dickinson, W P McQueen, J G Wells.

Ministerial Education—C C Lloyd, M T Williams, J C Bowen.

Documents and State of Religion—W H Dean, S W Andress, W H Sharp.

Orphans Home—T S Sanford, J F Sims, S W Andress, R T Poole.

REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Report on Documents and State of Religion.

Upon examining the letters from the various churches there has been (15) deaths. We rejoice to find the state of religion good and on the increase. The spirit of the Lord is predominant in most of the churches. One hundred and eighteen have been added by baptism, as against fifty-eight last year. "The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Respectfully submitted,

T. E. Morgan, Chairman.

Report on Obituaries.

During the past year the following brethren and sisters have "crossed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees": From Chapel Hill, sister Ida Owens. Pigeon Creek, Bro. Reuben Davis. Union, sister Mary Kelly. Spring Creek, brethren J. P. Thompson, J. H. Staggers and Oscar Hartselle, and sisters Nancy Lester and Nancy Cook. Bradleyton, Bro. Frank Vann. Hickory Grove, sister S E Moncrief. Indian Creek, Bro. G R G Buckhaults and sister Sidda Harrison. Antioch, Deacon W P Bush. Panola, sisters, Esther McJohnson and Nancy Loe. Gravel Hill, sister Melvina West. Damascus, sister Sara A. Barrett.

"They are gone to the grave, but 'twere wrong
to deplore them,
When God was their ransom, their guardian,
their guide,
He gave them, he took them and ever will
keep them,
Where death has no sting since the Savior has died.

J. C. Fonville, Chairman.

Report on Bible Cause and Religious Literature.

The Holy Bible is God's Holy book. It reveals God's Holy will to man. It teaches man to love God and to love

man. It was written by men divinely inspired of God. It is the only book on earth without error. We recommend that it should be studied more prayerfully than ever before. We further recommend the study of other good books and religious literature. Respectfully submitted,

W. H. Dean, Chairman.

Report on Sunday Schools.

We are sorry to report that out of nineteen churches there are only five that report Sunday schools. We would urge the importance of every church meeting on every Sunday and engaging in this all important church work. Upon further inquiry we are gratified to learn there are three more unreported in the letters. Respectfully,

J. M. Dickinson, Chairman.

Please report all Sunday schools in your Associational letters.—Clerk.

Report on Home and State Missions.

The object of our Lord Jesus Christ in coming into the world was the establishment of his church, the salvation of his people and the glory of God the Father. To do this he says "preach the word." You committee finds much to gratify us in the reports from home and state, as well as foreign fields. Ignorance and prejudice are passing away like mist before the rising sun, and the grand work of our State Board is more and more appreciated. We regret the small pro rata of our people who give to missions: Only about 8,000 out of the 117,000 white Baptists in the state. Reports from our evangelists are gratifying.

The Home Board, Atlanta Georgia, H. F. Tupper, D. D., Coresponding Secretary, is one of our most potent factors in our southern Zion. For more than half a century and our own beloved Association has been wonderfully blessed through our faithful heralds of the cross

Summary of work for past conventional year—Missionaries, 76; churches and stations, 3,000; baptisms, 7,000; and yet we have to record with sorrow a manifest indifference on the part of many of our people.

Respectfully submitted, T. T. Dobbs, Chairman.

Report on Foreign Missions.

The Bible teaches us that God calls men into the foreign fields.—(Acts 26, 16) When God appeared to Saul on his way to Damascus he indicated that he should go to the heathen gentiles. Saul wanted to stay at home, but God said, "I have called you to go far hence to the Gentiles. We are Apostolic in doctrine and practice, hence we must accept that God is now and has been calling men to this

mission work all down the centuries. Paul, the great missionary says, "I took wages of other churches to serve you." Thus showing the combined effort of the churches to support missionaries. With pleasure we report our Foreign Mission Board out of debt. The convention instructed the Board to extend the work 25 per cent. This calls for more efforts, more men, and more contributions. We are sorry to see the lack of interest on the part of our Association in this great work. Let our pastors take at least one collection every year for Foreign Missions.

Respectfully submitted, T. E. MORGAN, Chairman.

Report on Orphans Home.

Your committee on Orphan's Home beg leave to submit the following: The Orphans Home at Evergreen is well administered by Bro. J. W. Stewart, the superintendent, and sister J. M. Hardie, the matron. More than one hundred children have, during its existence of ten years, been admitted, many of whom have been placed by adoption in good families, where they are cared for and trained for the duties and responsibilities of life. The moral of the home is good, supplying religious influence, in the midst of which the children are trained, and in which seven converts were recently made. The indebtedness of the building is all paid, and no debt rests on the property. It is behind, however, some on current expense. The churches generally are enlisted in this important denominational enterprise, and we earnestly recommend the churches of this Association to give it their hearty support.

J. G. THOMAS, Chairman.

Report n Temperance.

"Be ye temperate in all things," says the eminent St. Paul. Page after page and volume after volume has been written upon the necessity and duty of temperance, and the degrading, ruinous and destructive evils of intemperance, especially as it relates to strong drink. Not only so but by oft repeated legislative action we have tried in vain to check this terrible evil that rests as a blight upon civilization. So that at last we are forced to the conclusion that nothing save the moral influence of men and women, moved by the tender and persuasive, yet powerful spirit of true christianity, will ever check this Hydra-headed monster in his mad career. God's word teaches us to live soberly, righteously and Godly in this present world, and to "abstain from all appearance of evil." Let us then, as faithful representatives of our Lord, rise in the strength given us by Him and teach by example as well as precept

the great sin of intemperance. Teach men to shun this evil as they would the great adversary who has long used this agency to drag men down, down to sin, to ruin, to degredation, to death and eternal perdition. Let us touch not, taste not, handle not. Respectfully submitted,

C. C. Lloyd, Chairman.

Report on Nominations.

Your committee begs leave to report as follows: Introductory sermon by Elder T. S. Sanford, alternate, Elder T. E. Morgan. Missionary sermon, Elder T T Dobbs, alternate, Elder S W Andress.

J C Routen, Chairman.

Report on Schools and Colleges.

Your Committee on Schools and Colleges is of the opinion that it is expected of us to say flattering things of certain institutions, more or less under the fostering care of the Baptist denomination Perhaps a great deal written in such reports and spoken on the floors of our convocations, is known in common parlance as "bosh." This committee proposes to be honest with itself and honest with the Association. Our opinion is that our denominational schools disclaim any attempt or intent to teach any particular Baptist tenet or contention. If this be true, then their claim on us for patronage on account of denominationalism cannot be sustained. Therefore we advise no parent or guardian to patronize our school on account of denominationalism, which it does not teach. Candidly, as a business matter, with sentiment eliminated, we advise those who are able to educate their children, to send them where they can get the most for the money, and if our Baptist schools show, in competition with others, that they will give better teaching for less money, they will secure the patronage beyond the sanguine expectation of our most hopeful enthusiasts. We will hail the day with gladness when our Baptist scholastic institutions base their claim of patronage on their merit and the saving of dollars and cents to the people.

W. C. Avant, Chairman.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Name	Post Office
W C Avant	Rutledge, Ala
J F Sims	Rutledge, Ala
W H Dean	Daisy, Ala
W H Cheatham	Greenville, Ala
C C Lloyd	Greenville, Ala
T T Dobbs,	Effort Ala

Edward Kolb	Rutledge,	Ala.
T E Morgan,	Honoraville,	Ala.
J G Thomas	"	"
J T Davidson,	"	"
R T Poole,	Surles,	"
S W Andress	Daisy,	"
T S Sanford,	Morganville,	"

LICENTIATES.

Geo. R. Vickery,	Coleman,	Ala.
L D Barfield,	Surles,	Ala

District Sunday School Superintendents.

1st. District,	E. J. Hancock,	Greenville, Ala.
2nd District,	C. H. Morgan,	Honoraville, "
3rd District,	W. P. McQueen,	Sandy Ridge "
4th District,	Jno. A. Rhodes,	Greenville, "

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

S. T. Kelly,	J. W. Holloway,	S. J. Thrower
T. L. S. Grace,	T. E Morgan,	S. W. Andress
J. F. Barrett,	W. T. J. Dismuke,	W. P. McQueen
F. M. Rodgers,	Edward Kolb,	R. T. Poole,

Three to make a quorum.

Declaration of Faith of Alabama Baptist Association.

Article 1. Of the Scriptures.—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction (a) that it has God for its author (b) salvation for its end (c) and truth without any mixture of error for its matter (d); that it reveals principles by which God will judge us (e); and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of christian union(f), and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried(g).

(a) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works—2 Tim. 3, 6-17. [b] For the prophesy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the holy Ghost—2 Peter, 1-21. [c) These things were written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that, believing ye might have life through his name—John 20;31. (d) For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth—Psalm, 33-4. [e] God shall judge the secrets of men according to my Gospel, Romans, 2-10. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works—Rev. 22-12. [f] Though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let them be accursed—Gal. 1-9. [g] If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed—Gal. 1-10.

Art. 2. Of the True God—That there is one, and only one true and living God, [a] whose name is Jehovah [b] the maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth [c inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love (d] revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection (e) and

executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. f (a) God is one—Gal. 3-20. (b] that men may know that thou, whose name is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth. Psalms 83-18. [c) For by him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible. Col 1-16 (d) Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders, Ex. 15-11 (e) For there are three that bear record in Heaven the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one—1 John 5-7. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the God-head bodily—Col. 2-9. Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God—Phil. 2-6. [f] God sent his Son into the world, that the world through him might be saved—John 3-17. Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures—Cor. 15-3. And was raised again for our justification—Romans 4:25. He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25. It is the Spirit that quickeneth John 6:63.

Art. 3 Of the Fall of Man.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his maker, (a), but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice (b) being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions (c) and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense and excuse. d.

[a) So God created man in his own image, Gen. 1-27. God made man upright-Ec. 7:29 (b] In Adam all die, 1 Cor. 15:22. There is not righteous, no, not one, Romans, 3:10. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do-John 8:44. (c) He that believeth not is condemned already; because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God-John 3:18. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction—2 Thes. 1:8. [d) And he was speechless. Matt. 22:12. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Romans, 1:30.

Art. 4. Of the Way of Salvation.--That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace [a) through the mediatorial office of the Son of God (b] who took on him our nature yet wittout sin (c]; honored the law by his personal obedience, and man's atonement for our sins by his death [d] being risen from the dead he is now enthroned in Heaven [e]; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Savior [f).

[a] For by grace ye are saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God-Eph. 2-8. [b] for there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ-1 Tim. 2:5. [c] For as much as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also took part of the same-Heb. 2:14. And in him is no sin-1 John 3;5. [d) the Lord is well pleased for his righteousness sake; he will magnify the law and make it honorable. Isa 42-21. We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son-Romans 5:10. [e] But we see Jesus—crowned with glory and honor. Heb. 2:9. (f] For we have a High Priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities Heb. 4-15. For in him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead-Col. 2:9.

Art. 5. Of Justification.--That the great gospel blessing which Christ of his fulness bestows on such as believe in him in justification [a; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness [b; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness [c; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity [d.

(a] Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ-Romans 5:1. b] Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins-Acts 10-30. He that believeth in the Son hath everlasting life, John, 3:36. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of of God-Rom. 3:25. [c: not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost-Titus. 3:5. [d; He that spared not his own Son but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things. Rom. 8:32.

Art. 6. Of the freeness of salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel [a; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith [b; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ [c; which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation. d

[a: Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else-Asa-45:22. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely, Rev. 22-17. (b; Now he commandeth all men everywhere to repent, Acts-17:30· (c: Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life, John-5:40. (d: It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for thee.—Matt. 11.24.

Art. 7. Of Grace in Regeneration.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again (a: that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is affected in a manner above our comprehension for calculation, by the power of the holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel (b; And that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God &c.

(a; Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God, John 3:3. b; And be renewed in the spirit of our mind. And that ye put on the new man which, after God is created in righteousness and true holiness, Eph. 4:23-24. The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou heareth the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh nor whither it goeth, so is every one that is born of the Spirit, John 3:8. Everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1 John 4:7. If a man love me, he will keep my words John 14:23. c—For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not, 1 John 5:18

Art. 8. Of God's purpose of Grace. That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he origi nates sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious displ y of God's soveriegn goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy; th t it is ascertained by its effect in all who believe the gospel; is the foundat on of Christian assurance: and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence

(a) God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctificalion of the spirit and belief o' the truth. 2 T es 2:13. (b) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ, Jesus with eternal glory 2 Tim 2:10. (c) According as he hath chosen us i him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love Eph. 1:4 [d) And they that are with him are not called and chosen and faithful—Rev 17:14. (e) Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth Who is he that condemneth?—Romans, 8-33:34. (f) Wherefore the rather brethren, give all diligence to make your calling and election sure. 2 Peter 1.10.

Art. 9. Of the perseverance of the Saints.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; th t a special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation

(a) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin: for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest and the children of the devil—1 John 2 9-10. (b) They went out from us but they were not of us -2 John 2:19 (c) God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will, with the temptation, also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it, 1 or 10-13. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time- 1 Peter, 1 5

Art 10 Harmony of the Law and Gospel —That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy just and good; and that the that the inability, which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man, to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church

(a) Till Heaven and earth pass one jot or one title shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled—Matt. 5:18. (b) Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good—Rom. 6:12 (c) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit- Rom. 8:4 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law—Rom. 3:31

Art. 11. Of a Gospel Church —That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privilges invested in them by his word,. that its only proper officers are Bishops or pastors and deacons whose qualifications, clarms and duties are defined in the Epistles of Timothy and Titus

(a) Paul a servant of Jesus Christ, to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints-Rom 1 7 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death Rom. 6 4 Paul, an Apostle to the churches of Galatia, Gal 1, 2 For ye are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus For as many of you as have been baptized into Jesus Christ have put on Christ Gal. 3, 26 27. (b) Now there are divirsities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord —1 Cor 3 4 5. (c) A bishop then must be blameless—1 Tim. 3 1 7. Likewise must the deacons be grave—1 Tim. 3, 8 9 10; see also Titus 1 7 8 9. Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine: and the laborer is worthy of his reward Againdst an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.—1 Tim 5 17 18 19

Art. 12 Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper That christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit (a); to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified and risen Savior; with its purifying power [b]; that it is a prerequisite to the priviliges of a church relation and the Lord's supper (c) in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self examination (d.

(a) See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Phillip said, "If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest; and he said I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God And they went down into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch, and he baptized him—Acts 8:36 37-38. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost—Matt. 28 19. (b) Buried with him in baptism wherein also ye are risen with him, through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. Col. 2 12 (c) Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. John 3 5. Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the Disciples, Matt. 26 26. And upon the first day of the week, when the Disciples came together to break bread—Acts 20 7 For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come—1 Cor. 11 26. (d) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. Verse 28

Art 13. Of the Christian Sabbath. That the first day of the week is the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath (a); and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations (b); by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public (c); and by preparat on for that rest which remaineth for the people of God (d)

(a) I was in the spirit on the Lord's day—Rev 1 10. (b) Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.—Ex 20 8. For in six days the Lord made Heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it verse 1 (c) Upon the first day of the week when the Disciples came to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow, Acts 2 7 (d) There remaineth therefore a rest unto the people of God—Heb 4 9. Let us labor therefore, to enter into that rest —verse 11

Art 14 Of Civil Government. That civil government is of divine appointment for for the interest and good order of human society (a) And that magistrates are to be prayed for (b) conscientiously honored and obeyed (c); except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. (d) who is the only Lord of the conscience and prince of the kings of the earth (e)

[a] For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God Rom. 13:1. For he is the minister of God to thee for good Verse 4 For rulers are not a terror to good work but to evil, Verse 3 [b] I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers intercessions and giving thanks be made for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority 1 Tim 1: 2. (c) Wherefore ye must needs be subject not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake Rom 13 5 [d] We ought to obey God rather than men, Acts 5-29. [e] Christ is the blest and only potentate, the King of Kings ths Lord of Lords 1 Tim 6-15

Art. 15 Of the Righteous and the Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked [a]; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of God are truly righteous in his esteem [b], while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse (c); and this distinction holds among men both in and after death [d]

[a] He that is not with me is against me. uke 11 23. Now, if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Rom 8 9 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, nei her he that loveth not his brother, 1 ohn 3-10 [b; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus—Rom. 3-26 But ye are washed but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God 1 Cor. 6:11 [c) Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish. Luke 13-3. He that believeth not is condemned already. John 3-18 [d] He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still Rev. 22 11.

Art. 16 Of the World to come That the end of this world is approaching, [a]; That at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution (b); that a solemn separation will then take place [c]; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment; and the righteous to endless joy [d]; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in Heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness [e]

[a] But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore, sober and watch unto prayer, 1 Peter 4 7 [b] For the Lord will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first, 1 Thes. 4-16. All that are in their graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation John 5-28 29 (c) And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another as the shepherd divideth the sheep from the goats Matt 25-32 [d] And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal; Matt 25 :2 [e) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them, and they were judged every man according to his works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, Rev. 20,13 14 Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? Gen. 18 25.

STATISTICS OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1899.

Churches	County	Pastor	Clerk	Clerk's Office	Membership Last Reported	Increase by				Decrease by				Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL			Pr'ching Sabaths	Reports	Prayer Meeting	Reports Revival
						Baptism	Letter	Voucher	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Death		Officers and Teachers	Pupils	SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME AND POST OFFICE.					
Antioch	Butler	W H Cheatham	J L Day	Searcey, Ala	60	0	0	0	0	5		1	54	0			I			I
Bradleyton	Crenshaw	T E Morgan	Wm Warrick	Bradleyton	61	16	5	0	3	2		1	73	5	31		2	rglr		I
Chapel Hill	Crenshaw	E Kolb	W H Mullins	Effort, Ala	72	35	1	0	3	2		1	107	7	44	R N Dobbs, Effort, Alabama	3			I
Damascus	Butler	W C Avant	S F Andress	Greenville	112	9	0	0	3			1	117	0			3			I
Gravel Hill	Butler	J G Thomas	W F Herndon	Greenville	37	1	1	1	0		1	1	39	4	30	Jno A Rhodes, Greenville	1			I
Good Hope	Lowndes	S J Williamson	J C Abbott	Greenville	10	7	1	0	0				18				2			I
Hickory Grove	Montgomery	T E Morgan	W P Fonville	Mount Carmel	59	8	1	0	0			1	67				3			I
Indian Creek	Butler	T T Dobbs	Dan Harrison	Searcy	94	1	8	0	2			2	98				4			I
Mountain Hill	Crenshaw	J G Thomas	J M Stevens	Surles		0	0	0	0				27				4			I
New Ebenezer	Crenshaw	G R Vickery	Jeff Cook	Highland Home	26	1	3	1	1				30				2			I
Panola	Crenshaw	T E Morgan	J H Sexton	Best	43	18	0	0	0				61	4	21	W H Sharp, Coleman, Ala	2			I
Pigeon Creek	Butler	W H Cheatham	C F Routen	Honoraville	43	2	3	0	6			1	41	4	23		2	rglr		I
Rutledge	Crenshaw	W C Avant	Wm Bailey	Rutledge	40	0	0	0	0				40				1			I
Siloam	Crenshaw	E Kolb	J B Foster	Rutledge	119	5	4	2	0	3			127				2			I
Steep Creek	Lowndes	T T Dobbs	J M Dickinson	Corrie Alabama	78	0	0	0	1			1	76	5	25	J M Dickinson, Corrie, Ala	2			I
Spring Creek	Butler	T T Dobbs	T L Bowden	Edna, Alabama	80	5	0	1	0	3		4	79				3			I
Sandy Ridge	Lowndes	T S Sanford	F E May	Fort Deposit	21	0	1	0	0				22	5	22	E M Andress, Sandy Ridge	1			I
Union	Crenshaw	T E Morgan	J W Holloway	Honoraville	68	10	6	0	6				78	5	39	J G Wells, Honoraville, Ala	4	rgla		I
Spring Hill	Butler																			
TOTAL					983	118	34	5	25	15	1	14	1154	39	235		42	3	18	

Sunday School Superintendents and their Post Offices.—Gravel Hill, Jno. A. Rhodes, Greenville, Ala.; Pigeon Creek, J. E. Helms, Honoraville, Ala; Spring Creek, W. T. J. Dismuke, Edna, Ala; Steep Creek, J. M. Dickinson, Corrie, Ala.; Union, J. G. Wells, Honoraville, Panola, W. H. Sharp, Coleman, Ala.; Chapel Hill, R. N. Dobbs, Effort, Ala.; Clerks of churches where Sunday Schools exist will please insert in their Associational letters, the number of officers and teachers, the name and post office of the Superintendent, and the number of pupils.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE ...YEAR 1899...

Churches.	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Associational Missions	Orphans Home	Minutes	Total	Value o' property
Antioch						1 50	1 50	$ 300
Bradleyton			1 50	1 00	1 60	1 50	5 60	400
Chapel Hill						1 50	1 50	250
Damascus		2 00				1 60	3 60	500
Gravel Hill						60	60	300
Good Hope						50	50	250
Hickory Grove	50	25	75	1 50	25	2 00	5 25	750
Indian Creek		1 20				2 00	3 20	450
Mountain Hill						50	50	150
New Ebenezer						1 25	1 25	200
Panola	1 00	2 00			1 00	1 50	5 50	250
Pigeon Creek		1 35				1 10	2 45	350
Rutledge								150
Siloam						2 00	2 00	350
Steep Creek	1 84		1 84			2 00	5 68	1000
Spring Creek			4 50v	2 50	1 00	85	85	3 0
Sandy Ridge	1 50	1 00	50		2 25	75	11 25	400
Union	50	50				1 50	5 25	500
Sunday								
Cash col'ecti'ns for	1 05	1 05	1 05	1 11			4 26	
Institute Board Collection							4 26	
Cont'bution for Bro. J E Reeves							16 75	
	o 39	9 35	5 64	6 11	6 10	22 60	81 75	$ 6850

Audited and found correct.

A correct account of all vouchers, as well as cash passing through the churches from one session to another should be kept and reported in the letters. Total for all purposes—$6906.24.

S. J. THROWER, Chairman

Received of C C. Lloyd, clerk $13.50 for printing minutes.